



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE.

### GENERAL BIOLOGY.

**Natural Science and Philosophy.** — Borntraeger Brothers<sup>1</sup> announce the programme of a series of chapters in popular knowledge by Dr. Adolf Wagner. The series is entitled *Studies and Sketches in Natural Science and Philosophy*, of which Nos. I and II have already appeared. The first of the series, Concerning Scientific Thinking and Popular Science, stands as a methodological introduction to the whole group by its discussion of the attitude of the logical thinker and of the process and results of epistemological analysis. After a discrimination of empirical investigation from critical reflection, in which the ease of the former and the difficulties which lie in the way of the latter are pointed out, the author goes on to indicate the nature of scientific thinking in general.

It is not any body of truth, or any form of expression, or any method of inquiry, — in so far as method means the employment of specific scientific instruments, — it is not the investigation of any particular problem or group of problems. Scientific thinking can be characterized only as an intellectual attitude, a method applicable to all possible subjects of investigation. It is, in short, sincere, critical thought, which admits belief only as it is based on evidence. Theoretical science, says the author, has attained no higher example than the canons of logical thought. It is criticism as opposed to dogma. Dogmatism remains dogmatism even when it speaks the phrases of science, and science, if it is sincerely to fulfil its office, must be kept free from the very taint of dogma.

This critical attitude of the thinker once made clear, an epistemological analysis of the nature of experience is entered upon in a series of discussions concerning things and properties, succession and connection in experience, cause and effect, laws and processes, reality and phenomena. The reader is then prepared to take up in detail the criticism of experience, of which the first aspect treated is the freedom of the will (No. II).

<sup>1</sup> Wagner, Dr. Ad. *Studien und Skizzen aus Naturwissenschaft und Philosophie*. I. Ueber wissenschaftliches Denken und populäre Wissenschaft. II. Zum Problem der Willensfreiheit. Borntraeger Bros., Berlin.

The style is easy, direct, and colloquial, and expresses a consistent endeavor after the utmost simplicity of statement and freedom from all technical terminology. One might call these booklets "guides to scientific thinking," in short words with easy illustrations, for their burden is told as to a child and the reader is *du-und-diched* throughout. Withal, however, the arrangement is clear and the exposition good, and the striving after simplicity is induced by a sense of the great impediments which the untrained thinker must meet in dealing with all profound critical problems. For the object of these studies is not to make known new facts to the reader but to stimulate him to logical reflection, not to furnish the memory but to arouse independent thinking. The world is fond of a phrase, for thinking is burdensome, and there are many technical terms on the lips of the reading public which have filtered through the magazines and popular books from scientific writings and are facilely employed but ill-understood. Evolution, mechanism and teleology, heredity and Darwinism, egoism, freedom of the will, — these phrases clothe the most significant problems of science and philosophy. The moment a new thought, a successfully daring speculation is represented in a phrase the imitative herd seizes upon it and bandies it glibly about, with commonly the most inadequate grasp of its meaning. To arouse a candid reflection upon such terms, to make the reader honestly attempt an analysis and comprehension of them for himself is the aim of these little books.

The following chapters of the series are already announced : Evolution in Nature ; Heredity and Darwinism ; On the Freedom of the Will ; The Philosophy of Egoism ; Mechanism and Organism ; Instinct ; On *a priori* Knowledge ; The Division of Labor ; On Positivism in Natural Science ; The Mechanics of Evolution ; Morals and Intellect.

ROBERT MACDOUGALL.

---

## ZOÖLOGY.

**Emery's Zoologia.** — The last fifteen years have been characterized by the appearance of an unusual number of good zoölogical text-books. Most of these works have first appeared in German, French, or English ; Emery's<sup>1</sup> *Compendium of Zoölogy* is in Italian. The field covered

<sup>1</sup> Emery, C. *Compendio di Zoologia*. vii + 456 pp., 600 illustrations and a map. Bologna, Nicola Zanichelli, 1899.